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# ePortfolios and Peer-Mentoring: Putting the Whole in Holistic

Mercedes del Rosario, Ed.D.

Sada Jaman

Pablo Avila

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# Holistic Learning

- Learning is a complex, holistic, multi-centric activity that occurs throughout and across the college experience.
- Student development, and the adaptation of learning to students' lives and needs, are fundamental parts of engaged learning and liberal education.
- True liberal education requires the engagement of the “whole” student.

# Prevailing Structure

- Seeing students as their component parts (body, mind, spirit), rather than as an integrated whole, supported the emergence of fragmented college systems and structures.
- Typical structure:
  - Academic affairs to cultivate the intellect
  - Student affairs to tend the body, emotions, and spirit.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Educational Experience

- To support today's learning outcomes, the focus of education must shift from information transfer to identity development (transformation).
- The goals of education must be to produce “intentional learners who can adapt to new environments, integrate knowledge from different sources and continue learning throughout their lives.”

*(AAC&U 2002, p. xi)*

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Educational Experience

- Transformative learning opportunities through:
  - Service learning programs
  - Learning communities
  - Internships
  - Outdoor education experiences
  - Volunteer programs
  - Action research
  - Capstone courses; and
  - Peer-mentoring

# Peer Mentoring

- A mentor is defined as a knowledgeable and experienced guide, a trusted ally and advocate, and a caring role model.
- An effective mentor is respectful, reliable, patient, trustworthy, and a very good listener and communicator.

# Peer Mentoring

- Due to their close association with other students, Peer Mentors are very important.
- Often new students confronted with an academic or personal problem will seek out advice first from a Peer Mentor and only with encouragement will that student contact others in the university, such as counselors, faculty, or administrators.

# Peer Mentoring

- The single most important factor associated with high retention and graduation rates for low-income, first-generation college students was their ability to find a mentor at (CSUN informal survey at California State University, Northridge (CSUN)).
- Finding a mentor not only helped students to succeed academically but also with career planning and the development of life management skills such as dealing with personal and family problems.

# References

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# Peer Mentoring

*What's the peer mentoring program like at  
LaGuardia?*

# Who Are We?

- Students
- ePortfolio Consultants
- Peer Mentors

# What Do We Do?

- Teach the studio hour
- Act as liaison between faculty and students
- Guide students in designing and developing their ePortfolios
- Act as role models and peer mentors
- Provide instructional and technological support

# What is a Studio Hour

- Laboratory class attached to a credit course,
- Facilitated by Peer Mentors like ePortfolio Consultants with close collaboration from faculty and STMs (Student Technology Mentors)
- New initiative: FY Studio Hour

# What is the First Year Seminar?

## *The new FY Studio Hour –*

Attached to FY Courses in Business and Technology, Natural Science, Liberal Arts and Health science.

Designed to use digital and on-line tools and processes, and advance the success of new LaGuardia students.

Highlight topics that reflect their current intellectual interests and illustrate competency in inquiry, integration, and problem-solving.

# KSC Peer Mentors

- Experience as LAGCC student and now as staff
- Technological expertise
- People, leadership and listening skills
- Teaching and facilitation skills
- A helping hand

# Teaching and Learning

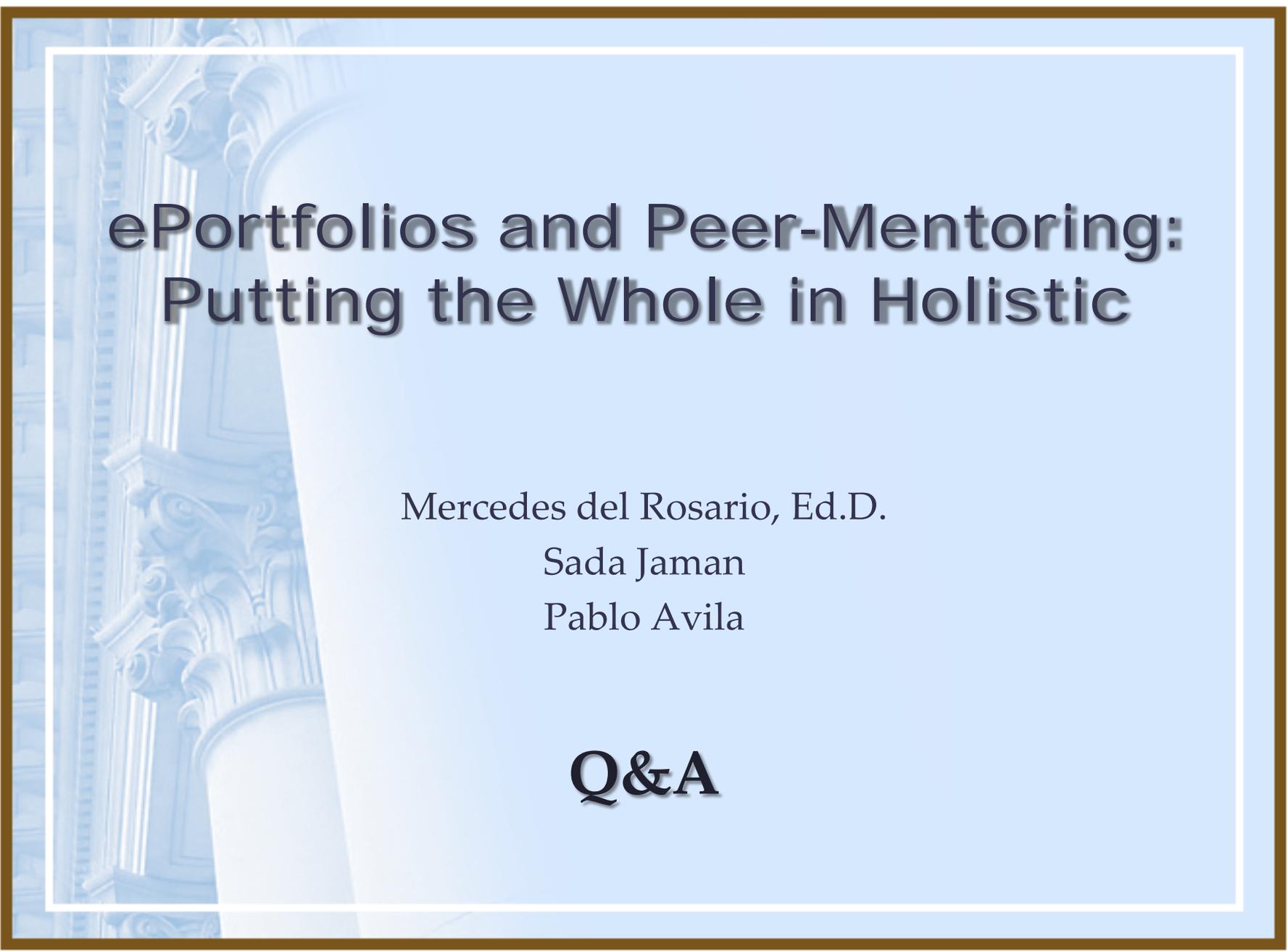
- Deepen students learning and engagement
- Learn new technology
- Extra help on projects
- Keep students on track

# Teaching and Learning

- Develop leadership and management skills
- Gain recognition for our skills and experience
- Sense of fulfillment and personal growth

# Finally

- As peer mentors, we make the connection between the lecture and ePortfolio laboratory components of courses with studio hours visible and whole.

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**Q&A**